MEMO: When Did LHO Plan to Shoot JFK?

by: Howard Roffman, 4/26/76

The following is an interesting example of how the WC responded to conflicts in the evidence.

I recently obtained a copy of CD 329:5-6, a report of a 1/13/64 interview with Roy Truly by Hosty (copy attached). Note what Truly says about the motorcade route, and the first clear announcement of it appearing on the front page of the Dallas Times Herald, 11/21/63. The WC printed nothing from the DTH front page for that day, so I can't verify Truly's story yet. Note Hosty's account:

> "After the 'Times Herald' appeared on the downtown streets (after 10:30AM 11/21) there was immediately considerable excitement and conversation among the employees at the TSBD concerning the fact that the parade would pass right in front of their building."

If this is true, it is quite important, in light of Frazier's testimony that LHO asked him for a ride home before 10:00AM on Thursday morning, 11/21. Frazier specified that Oswald had to have asked him before 10 because he takes a morning break at 10 and knows Oswald asked him before his break. 2H222. Frazier gave this testimony on March 11, 1964.

Truly first testified on March 24. The following exchange took place:

> Mr. Belin: Now I want to take you to the morning of Nov. 22d. First let me ask you when you first heard your employees discussing the fact that the motorcade would be going by the Texas School Book Depository? Was that first on the morning of Nov. 22d that you heard that, or at any prior date?
> Mr. Truly: I don't recall. I don't recall hearing any particular discussion about him coming by. No sir; I don't. (3H218)

I can't find any otehr questioning of Truly on this point.

On May 5, 1964, Hosty was questioned. Stern asked him if he ever talked to Truly to follow up leads. Before Hosty could answer, McCloy asked, "Is this anticipating something you have got?" and Stern replied, "No." Then Hosty described the Jan. interview and he repeated essentially the contents of his report, although there is no indication from the transcript that he was shown the report, and I don't believe the WC published it. (4H471-2)

Regardless of Hosty's general reliability, I can't think of any reason he would have had to misrepresent Truly on this as early as 1/14/64. I have no reason to doubt that Truly did tell Hosty what is recorded in the 1/17/64 report. Without suggesting that Truly was persuaded to change his story, it can't be ignored that Truly told quite a different story after Frazier's testimony made it essential that LHO have known the motorcade route prior to the appearance of the 11/21 DTH story.

Many of the same members and staff were present for the testimony of Frazier, Truly and Hosty: Warren (he may have left at points--I can't check now), Ford, Belin, Rankin, Redlich, and Charles Murray.

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date January 17, 1964

On January 13, 1964, Mr. ROY S. TRULY, Superintendent, Texas School Book Depository (TSBD), 411 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, was contacted on another matter at which time he advised that it was his firm conviction that LEE HARVEY OSWALD did not plan the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY before approximately 10:30 AM on November 21, 1963. TRULY pointed out that although he has since learned that the parade route of the presidential motorcade was made public on November 19, 1963, he has noticed in these articles, after reading them after November 22, 1963, that the parade route was "buried" at the end of an article in which the heading and main theme concerned the seating arrangements of United States Senator RALPH YARBOROUGH. TRULY pointed out that unless a person read the article in its entirety, which most people would not do, they would not have seen the paragraph which mentioned the parade route.

TRULY noted that at approximately 10:30 AM, on November 21, 1963, the first issue of the "Dallas Times Herald" appeared on the downtown streets of Dallas displaying a schedule of the President's route prominently in the middle of the first page. Before this schedule appeared TRULY stated that he was completely unaware of the parade route, or in fact that there would even be a downtown parade, and that he had heard no conversation from any of the employees at the TSBD concerning this parade. After the "Times Herald" appeared on the downtown streets there was immediately considerable excitement and conversation among the employees at the TSBD concerning the fact that the parade would pass right in front of their building.

TRULY also pointed out that the news media has erroneously stated that the only possible route a parade could take from the downtown area to the Dallas Trade Mart was past the TSBD. TRULY pointed out that this is not true and he knows of at least two other routes from the downtown area which would not pass in front of the TSBD. TRULY stated that one way would have been to turn right off Main Street onto Lamar Street to the Continental Viaduct and then onto Stemmons Freeway to the Trade Mart. The other way would have been to continue straight ahead on Main Street to Industrial Boulevard and then onto Stemmons Freeway and the Trade Mart. Mr. TRULY pointed out he considered either of these two routes to be better from a political consideration since they both went through factory

On 1/13/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461

by Special Agent JAMES P. HOSTY, JR. / em Date dictated 1/14/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

districts where large numbers of industrial employees might observe the parade route; however, the route actually chosen was through a predominantly "white collar" district and passed very few if any industrial plants.